

Weighing & Measuring: Getting What You Paid For

consumer**brief**

Almost everything we buy is sold by weight, volume, length, count or measure. For example a dozen eggs, a liter of soda, a yard of cloth, a gallon of milk, a pound of hamburger, a cord of firewood. Since we don't carry a scale or measuring tape with us, how can we be sure a pound is a pound and an inch is an inch?

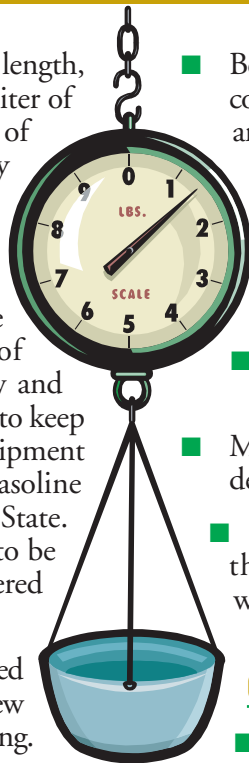
In 1911 Governor Woodrow Wilson established the Office of Weights and Measures to protect the citizens of New Jersey. Part of the Division of Consumer Affairs, under the Department of Law and Public Safety, Weights and Measures' officials work to keep the marketplace honest by using highly accurate equipment to inspect scales, meters, scanning equipment, gasoline station pumps and lumberyards throughout the State. Weighing or measuring devices are not permitted to be used for commercial purposes unless they are registered with the Office of Weights and Measures.

Because of the inspections and investigations conducted by the men and women of Weights and Measures, New Jersey consumers can have confidence when shopping.

However, consumers should also pay attention when making purchases. Small, seemingly insignificant errors can add up.

SCALES AND SCANNERS

- Always check for the Weights and Measures seal, indicating a scale has been tested. Each registered business also receives a Registration Certificate which should be prominently displayed.
- Check to make sure scales are set at zero prior to weighing produce. If the weight displayed on a scale indicates a weight when there is nothing on the scale, bring this to the vendor's attention. Any weight indicated on the scale prior to weighing of your item will result in additional cost to you.



- Be cautious of scales which appear to be in poor condition. Scales with broken glass or those which are not level are more likely to be in error.

- Make sure the shelf price or advertised price agrees with the scanner price on your receipt.

HOME HEATING OIL

- Request a specific delivery date and plan to be home at that time.
- Make sure the meter register reads all zeros before delivery begins.
- When the delivery is completed, compare the delivered gallons printed on the ticket with the gallons indicated on the meter register.

GAS PUMPS

- Check for the seal indicating that the dispensers have been tested by Weights & Measures.
- Make sure the price on the sign is the same as the price on the pump.
- Make sure attendants have reset the pump to zero before filling your tank.
- Check to make sure your receipt matches what the pump registers prior to signing your credit card form.

PROPANE

- When having your propane cylinder (the type used for barbecuing) filled by weight, make sure the weight of the cylinder and any remaining propane

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is not part of the total weight for which you are paying.

TIMING DEVICES

The Office of Weights and Measures annually registers approximately 32,000 timing devices such as those used in laundry drying machines, money operated air pumps, car vacuum machines, etc.

- Check for the blue Weights and Measures seals, indicating that the devices have been inspected and tested.

If you have a problem with a weighing and measuring device, try to resolve it with the manager or owner. If you cannot resolve the matter to your satisfaction, please contact your county or municipal weights and measures office or the New Jersey State Office of Weights and Measures at: 1261 Route 1 & 9 South, Avenel, New Jersey, or call 732-815-4840.

For more information about the State Office of Weights and Measures, log onto www.njconsumeraffairs.com/owm.htm.

State Office, Avenel, (732) 815-4840

Atlantic County, (609) 345-6700 Ext. 2477

Bergen County (201) 336-6424

Burlington County, (609) 265-5098

Camden County, (856) 374-6001

Cape May County, (609) 463-6478

Cumberland County, (856) 453-2203

Essex County, (973) 395-8363

Gloucester County, (856) 384-6855

Hudson County, (201) 319-3820

Hunterdon County, (908) 788-1249

Mercer County, (609) 989-6579

Middlesex County, (732) 745-3872

Monmouth County, (732) 431-7362

Morris County, (973) 285-2955

Ocean County, (732) 929-2166

Passaic County, (973) 305-5750 / 5751

Salem County, (856) 935-7510 Ext. 8309

Somerset County, (908) 231-7125

Sussex County, (973) 948-5464

Union County, (908) 654-9845

Warren County, (908) 453-2828

Camden City, (856) 968-4738

East Orange, (973) 266-5357

Elizabeth, (908) 820-4113

Hamilton (Mercer Co.), (609) 890-3595

Jersey City, (201) 547-5292 / 4232

Linden, (908) 474-8403

Newark, (973) 733-6274

Nutley, (973) 284-4940 Ext. 2106

Paterson, (973) 321-1277 Ext. 2714

Trenton, (609) 989-3282



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

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